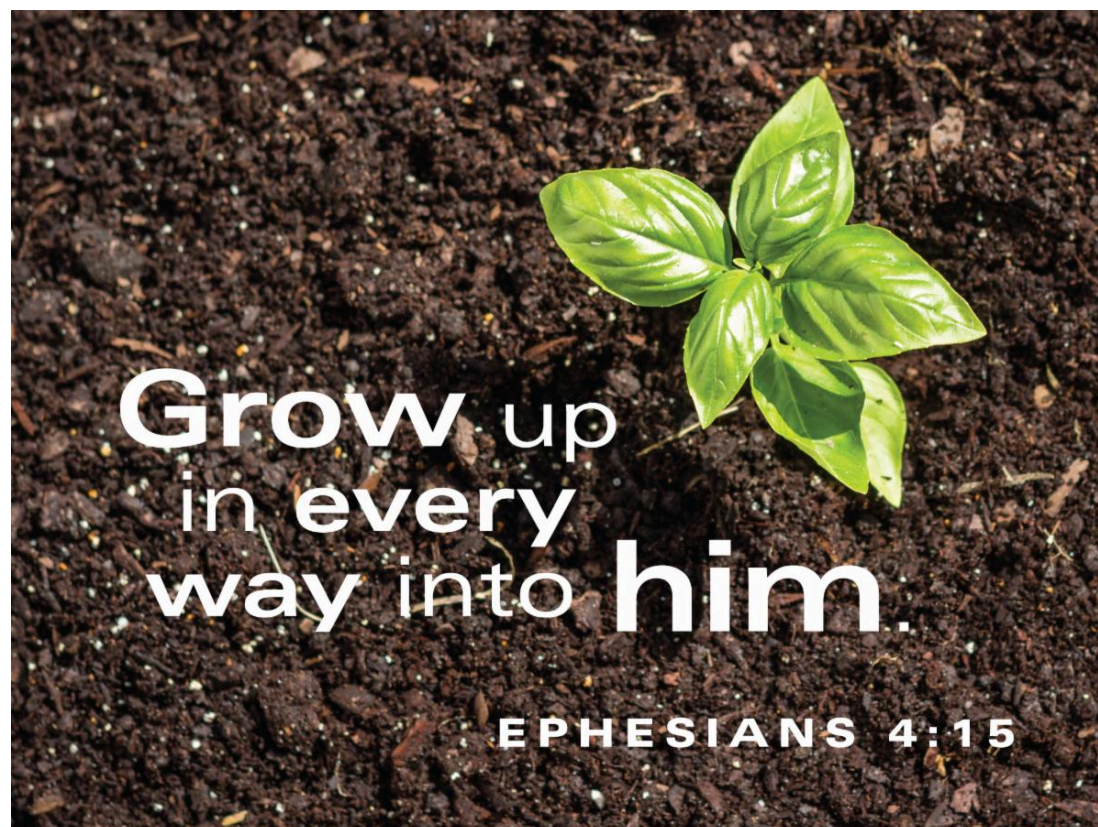




# THE WEEKLY FIRST

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How does God grow Christians saved by grace and grow a community of grace? On Sunday I will seek to teach how Ephesians 4:1-16 addresses these questions. Our Sunday theme, "Church Growth 101", refers not to the measure of how many nickels are in the offering plates and noses in the pews, or how many people are in attendance and how much money is given. The measure of Ephesians 4 church growth is the spiritual life, relational character, and missional purpose of a local church formed by God's gospel grace and called on mission. I look forward to worshipping with you.

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## [Session Meeting Highlights](#)

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**Nominations for the office of Elder at First Presbyterian are now being accepted.** An Elder Recommendation Form may be found as an insert to your bulletin. Please read the form and prayerfully consider any nominations.

Return the Recommendation Form to the Offering Plate by Sunday, May 3. Elders will be selected at a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 28, and installed during worship on Sunday, July 5.

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**The Building on the Cornerstone spring 2026 project is essentially complete, and the work has been fully funded!** This past week, a new rail was installed on the front porch, and two new rails were installed at the Fellowship Hall front entrance. All that remains is repair of the broken window. This will be the last update for the spring 2026 outdoor renovations. The Building on the Cornerstone program will continue and will consider other potential property improvements in the near future.

Click the link below for an April 2026 update.

[Cornerstone April 2026 Update](#)

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## [Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



**Calling all youth!** We will soon embark on a study of what "the Church" is, who "the Church" is, and where you fit in! Guests will share insights with us as we look at what God designed "the church" to be, to look like, and to do. **Lesson #1 is "The Church shows up for each other!"** This spring, let Michelle know if your youth has an activity (sport, play, recital, etc.) that we can show up for and support them! **Our next opportunities are:**

**Thursday, April 30:** *Charlie March's football game at Carolina Int'l School (9545 Poplar Tent Rd, Concord) Game begins at 4:30pm and ends at 5:30pm. Please plan to drop-off and pick-up there.*

**Saturday, May 9:** *Mary-Gray Petersen's volleyball game at West Cabarrus YMCA. We will meet at Afton Pub & Pizza for lunch at 11:15am (5380 Village Dr. NW, Concord), then walk to the Y for her game at 12:30pm. Pick up will be at the Y (5325 Langford Ave. NW, Concord) at 1:30pm.*

**Wednesday, May 13:** *Oliver Townsend's baseball game at Virginia Foil Park in Mt. Pleasant. We will leave church at 4:30, eat at What-a-Burger in Mt. Pleasant, and then go to the game at 6. Please sign up in the Narthex, especially if you need transportation!!!*



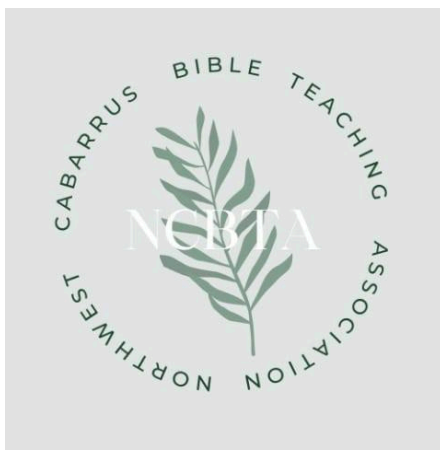
**All Middle & High School Students are invited to the Cabarrus County Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Spring Weekend!** The event takes place Friday afternoon/evening, May 1 and Saturday morning, May 2 at the Community Church of Mt. Pleasant. We will gather for worship, teaching, fellowship and fun! Dinner on Friday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday, are included. **Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, April 26 if you would like to attend.** Michelle will attempt to provide transportation. *\*\*\*The First Pres Missions Team is providing lunch at the gathering on May 2. If you can volunteer to help prep or serve the meal, please see Michelle.\*\*\**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:



**The West Rowan Bible Teaching Association is sponsoring a 5K & Fun Run THIS Saturday, April 18.** Check-in begins at 8am at West Rowan Elementary School in Cleveland. For more information, pick up a flyer in the Narthex!

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**The Northwest Cabarrus Bible Teaching Association is sponsoring their 15th Annual Car, Truck, & Bike Show THIS Saturday, April 18** from 9am - 3pm on the property of the NC Research Campus. Fliers are available in the Narthex with more information.

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**Ladies are invited to a Spring "Mix & Mingle", sponsored by the Women's Council!** On Monday, April 20, we will gather at 6pm for fellowship, a meal, and an opportunity to know one another better. Dinner will be a salad bar and desserts, provided by the women of the church. Invite friends to join us. Please let Roxanne Spencer know THIS SUNDAY if you plan to attend.

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**The Cabarrus Women's Center is hosting "a Morning of Prayer for Life" on Saturday, April 25.** You are invited to drop-by from 9:30am-11:30am to pray for lives touched at this location. The Cabarrus Women's Center is a life-affirming pregnancy support center. It is located at 163 Winecoff Ave. NW, Concord.

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**The annual Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association fundraising banquet will be held on Monday, May 4!** You are invited to join us at Shoe Show Headquarters (2201 Trinity Church Road, Concord) from 6-7:30pm for dinner, reflection, and celebration of what God is doing in Kannapolis City Schools through this ministry. Please sign up in the Narthex THIS SUNDAY if you plan to attend, so we can secure sufficient seating. See Sam McAllister or Steve Goodnight for more information!

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**The South Rowan Bible Teaching Association is holding their annual Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Thursday, May 7th at First Reformed Church in Landis,** offering a lunch or dinner option. Lunch can be picked up from 11:00am-1:00pm and dinner pick up is from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Meals are \$14 each and



include half a bbq chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll and homemade dessert. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 30th. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact the church office or see Michelle Walker.



**Linda's Closet is open the first and third Tuesdays each month, from 11:00am - 1:00pm. Other Tuesdays will be work days.**

**See Sue Maiocchi if you can volunteer.**

**Current needs:**

- **Spring & Summer clothing for all, especially for children**
- **New underwear and socks for all**



**Thank you for donating to the First Pres Blessing Fence!** See Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help with current needs:

**\*2 Gallon sized Ziploc bags**

**\*ball caps**

### **Prayer Concerns**

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates. Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.

### **Church Family**

- Debby Baker - cancer
- Jean Bost - treatment for UTI and blood clot in lung
- Efird Family - loss of Rev Charles Efird (grew up at First Pres)
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Richard Little - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Mac Atwell (Lauren Goodnight's uncle) - recovery from surgery

### **Family & Friends of Church**

- Trey & Semra Goodnight (Mark Goodnight's nephew and wife) - Semra' MRI and PET scans came back clear. She has 3 more chemo sessions, then surgery.
- Chalora Leece (Jason Leece's mom) - surgery to remove kidney
- Margaretta Cowan (Eric's mom) - in hospice at home
- Richard Hough (friend of the church) - in serious condition in the hospital
- Robert Ellison (Sparks' in-law) - declining health
- Meredith Milam (Stricker's niece) - undergoing chemotherapy for uterine cancer
- Karen Pless' mom - recovery from stroke and broken clavicle

- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - chemotherapy
- Robert Hudak (Diane Belotti's brother) - recovery from spine surgery
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10-yr-old - undergoing stem cell treatment
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - cancer

### Homebound

- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks
- Linda Bost - Best of Care under hospice care

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## This Week @ FIRST PRES

### Sunday, April 19

- 9:30am - Morning Coffee
  - GraceFull Movements Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service

### Monday, April 20

- 6:00pm - Ladies' Mix & Mingle in Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, April 21

- 11:00-1:00pm - Linda's Closet
- 12:00pm - NA
- 3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

### Wednesday, April 22

- 3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen
- 6:00pm - Chancel Choir

### Thursday, April 23

- 10:30am - Ladies Study/Session Room
- 12:00pm - NA
- 3:30-6:30m - Peek NexGen

### Next Sunday, April 26

- 9:30am - Morning Coffee
  - Gracefull Movements Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service

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## Servants

**Elder Lock-Up:** Cookie Hamilton

**Children's Church This Week:** Debbie McDaniel

**Children's Church next week:** Roxanne Spencer

**Acolytes This Week:** Gabriel Miller & Mary-Gray Petersen

**Acolytes Next Week:** Landon Walker & Oliver Townsend

**Nursery:** Debbie McDaniel

**Nursery Next Week:** Roxanne Spencer

**Ushers:** Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel, Jill & Phil McLain

**Ushers Next Week:** Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Noah Walker

**Greeters:** Phil McLain & Roxanne Spencer

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### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen Sharon Cranford Tony Rary

Cookie Hamilton Chris Lowder Ken Sparks

Sue Maiocchi Phil McLain

Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator

Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk



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